

human life. There is also no consensus about the cost or effectiveness of measures to reduce emissions. The uncertainty has led to an intense debate over the correct policy to reduce or limit greenhouse gases.

The Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol requires 38 industrialized nations to cut emissions from six different greenhouse gases by about five percent below 1990 levels, and to do so in the next 14 years. Reductions would vary between six to eight percent for the U.S., Japan and the European Union. Developing countries—including major greenhouse gas producers such as China and India—were asked to set voluntary targets to reduce emissions. The Protocol will enter into force after its ratification by 55 states, and will be binding only on those states that have ratified it.

The Protocol also permits "trading" of emissions rights. A country or company could meet its targets by cutting emissions, purchasing emissions rights from a country or company below its cap, or both. The purpose of this provision is to encourage cost-effective emissions reductions. The Protocol calls for a follow-up meeting next year to re-examine emissions trading, and to decide on "appropriate and effective" ways to deal with treaty non-compliance.

Economic Concerns. Opponents argue that global warming is not a problem, and, if it is a problem, others are causing it and doing anything about it will cost too much. Opponents frame the issue in terms of economic security and national sovereignty. They complain developing countries get a free ride.

Developing countries argue that they are not the chief source of emissions, and that they cannot reduce fossil fuel use without harming economic growth. The industrialized world is overwhelmingly responsible for the accumulation of greenhouse gas emissions thus far, but the contribution of developing countries is expected to rise over the next decade.

U.S. business and labor groups strongly oppose allowing developing countries to reduce emissions at a slower pace than industrial countries. This discrepancy, they argue, will encourage companies to move operations to developing countries with lower energy prices—and take thousands of U.S. jobs with them.

A Balanced Approach. Climate change is a complex and serious problem. The Protocol offers a serious solution, but policymakers must take time to digest fully its implications. President Clinton must convince Congress and the American people that it does not promote global environmental interests at the expense of American jobs and economic growth.

First, the President should not submit the Protocol for Senate ratification until developing countries agree to meaningful emissions reductions. A global problem demands a global solution, and developing countries must be involved. They cannot be expected to accept identical targets and burdens, and they have a right to energy-efficient growth. But they are becoming major polluters, and need to play their part to reduce emissions.

Second, the Administration should emphasize tax incentives, not tax increases. Market-based approaches to reduce emissions work better than command and control techniques. The President should advocate tax cuts and incentives for research and development to encourage cleaner and more efficient technologies. Industry, not government, should take the lead to improve fuel efficiency.

Third, the Administration must begin to build public support for eliminating wasteful energy use. Even though a majority of Americans in polls say the U.S. should take steps

to cut greenhouse gas emissions "regardless of what other countries do," the question of global warming is still largely undefined in the public mind. The President will need to persuade voters that there are not only costs but opportunities in a cleaner, more efficient economy.

Finally, the Kyoto Protocol is historic and important—but it is only a first step. In the United States, the debate over global warming has really just begun. This must be seen as an initial and partial agreement, which will begin many years of international negotiations. With sustained and committed leadership, this treaty can evolve into a significant international agreement that commits the nations of the world to action to safeguard the future of the planet.

Conclusion. Reducing emissions will protect against unpleasant environmental surprises. The pressing question is how much should we sacrifice now to buy insurance against unknown future threats. To do nothing would be irresponsible, but to sacrifice our economic vitality would be a high price to pay, and the benefits are uncertain.

The political question on global warming is tough. All politicians understand that the American people are not ready for a 25 cents per gallon gasoline tax. The Congress will not agree to large economic sacrifices until Members are convinced of the seriousness of this problem. There is no reason to rush or panic, but gradual steps now to reduce reliance on fossil fuels could prevent disruptive climate change later—change that could severely damage the economies of the world. If we do not get this right, our grandchildren will not—and should not—forgive us.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEER AWARDEES

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, it is with great pleasure that I rise to day to recognize the achievements of seven African American individuals whose contributions to society have enriched all our lives. On February 1, 1998, The Forum Magazine will host the 8th Annual African American Pioneer Awards at the Riverfront Hotel in downtown Flint. The honorees are as follows:

Dr. J. Merrill Spencer fought in 1964 to bury his mother in previously all-White, Flint Memorial Park Cemetery. His sense of justice prevailed and his action led to the demise of racially motivated cemetery practices in the State of Michigan. Dr. Spencer is a graduate of Morehouse College and was awarded a Doctor of Mortuary Science by the National Conference of Examiners of Morticians and Embalmers.

Minnie Madison Martin is being posthumously honored for a life that can only be described as inspirational. Ms. Martin began a career at General Motors as a cafeteria worker, became an assembly line employee, and was finally promoted to a supervisory position at A.C. Spark Plug. She took a leave of absence from GM to start her own business, Martin Leasing. From humble beginnings, Ms. Martin turned her company into a multimillion dollar corporation.

Glenora Roland has been a vital part of the Flint community for more than half a century.

She was the proprietor of Flint's first African American entertainment agency, played a key role in the creation of the Flint Neighborhood Improvement Preservation Project, and was Executive Director of the Flint Neighborhood Coalition. Her commitment to our community and her wisdom over the years is very much appreciated.

Samuel R. Dismond, Jr., M.D. is the first African American to serve as Chief of Staff at Flint's Hurley Medical Center. A graduate of Howard University Medical School, Dr. Dismond is a Charter Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. In 1997, the Academy of Family Practice paid tribute to Dr. Dismond by naming him Michigan's Family Physician of the Year.

Captain Mickey Traylor's career has literally led him to new heights for 25 years. He began his distinguished career in the United States Armed Forces, and had since piloted for Southwest and Lufthansa Airlines. Captain Traylor has shared his love of flying with young people through the creation of Friends of Aviation, an organization which provides flight opportunities and learning experiences for underprivileged children from all walks of life.

Tracy M. Byrd is a true pioneer in the field of boxing. She is currently the International Female Boxing Association's Lightweight Champion, defending her title around the world. With an undefeated record in boxing and her service as a Flint police officer, Tracy has made us all very proud.

Rose Byrd is nationally recognized as the first woman professional boxing trainer. This accomplishment alone is admirable, but Mrs. Byrd is also the mother of eight wonderful children. Her compassion and nurturing extend beyond her family to the boxers in her charge. Mrs. Byrd is shy about receiving praise for what she sees as "just doing her job" but she is most deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, African Americans have a magnificent and rich history; a history which is inextricably woven into the economic, social, and political fabric of this Nation. In 1926, the late Dr. Carter G. Woodson understood that black Americans were not receiving proper recognition in history for their contributions. His idea of setting aside one week each year to commemorate the achievements of African Americans led to the observance of Black History Month in 1976.

In this spirit, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating Black History Month. It is indeed a great honor for me to highlight and pay tribute to the notable accomplishments of these seven individuals who have contributed so much to this great Nation. I thank The Forum Magazine for initiating the African American Pioneer Awards to document, honor, and celebrate African Americans in Flint and in the State of Michigan. Best wishes for a truly successful event.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY INTEGRITY ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will restore the integrity of the final resting place for many of our